

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A dental hygiene apparatus, comprising  
a teeth-cleaning means, and  
5 a handling means, whereby said teeth-cleaning means and  
said handling means are united and pliable at their  
points of joinder.
- 10 2. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a flexible  
elbow.
- 15 3. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the teeth-cleaning  
means comprises arms securing one or more lengths of  
interdental material.
4. The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said material is dental  
floss.
- 20 5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the teeth-cleaning  
means further comprises a tapered portion at one end of  
said apparatus.
6. The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein the tapered portion is  
chisel-shaped or pointed.
- 25 7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the teeth-cleaning  
means has a range of flexibility from 0 to about 90  
degrees relative to its original position.
- 30 8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the teeth-cleaning  
means is capable of adhering to its new position after  
flex adjustment.
- 35 9. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the teeth-cleaning  
means can be bent approximately 90 degrees to the right

and then approximately 90 degrees to the left and so forth for at least 20 times without breaking.

10. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the handling means 5 comprises a handle with ridges, grooves, or a combination thereof.
11. An dental hygiene apparatus, comprising 10 an elongated member, a flexible elbow, and two arms securing one or more lengths of interdental material.
12. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the elongated member 15 comprises a tapered end.
13. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the tapered end is chisel-shaped or pointed.
- 20 14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the elongated member comprises ridges, grooves, or a combination thereof.
15. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the apparatus, in 25 whole or in part, is constructed of a thermoplastic resin.
16. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the resin is a polymer.
- 30 17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the polymer is polypropylene.
18. A dental hygiene apparatus, comprising 35 a cleaning head comprising arms for securing one or more lengths of floss,

a flexible elbow,  
an elongated member, and  
a guarding means for preventing a user from using said  
apparatus.

5

19. The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the guarding means  
comprises a locking device and a mating recess that  
securely accepts said locking device.

10 20. The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the locking device  
will break off when said guarding means is removed from  
said apparatus.

15 21. The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the guarding means  
comprises a thin material that securely grips and covers  
the cleaning head and cannot be removed without  
destruction of said material.